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Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 20 May 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Brazil, France, Lesotho, Monaco, Portugal and the United Kingdom (A/58/237)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the letter dated 30 April 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, France, Lesotho, Monaco, Portugal and the United Kingdom requesting the addition of an additional item entitled "International Year of Physics, 2005" (A/58/237).

2. **Mr. Florent** (France) said that both pure and applied physics had a growing impact on daily life; moreover, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had recently adopted a resolution proclaiming 2005 as the International Year of Physics. By adopting the draft resolution, the General Assembly would declare that year and would invite UNESCO to organize activities celebrating it in collaboration with physics societies and groups throughout the world, including in the developing countries. He proposed that it should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary session.

3. **Mr. Hamburger** (Netherlands) said that he did not question the importance of the science of physics or the need to support physicists, particularly in the developing world. However, he wondered why the General Assembly should declare 2005 the international year of physics since UNESCO had already done so; moreover, the addition of such an item might be inconsistent with the urgent need to rationalize the Assembly's agenda and, in particular, that of its plenary session.

4. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Monaco had asked to address the Committee under rule 43 of the rules of procedure regarding the proposal contained in document A/58/237.

5. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Borghini (Monaco) took a place at the Committee table.*

6. **Mr. Borghini** (Monaco) said that inclusion of the item in the agenda of the General Assembly would highlight the importance of the topic; moreover, the item would give rise to little discussion and thus would not hinder rationalization of the agenda.

7. **Mr. Hamburger** (Netherlands) said that his delegation was not alone in believing that the General Assembly's repeated proclamation of international years tended to lessen their value; however, he would not stand in the way of consensus on the proposal.

8. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Roshdy (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.*

11. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) suggested that the document should include a recommendation that the proposed agenda item should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary session and pointed out that there was a precedent for the declaration by the General Assembly of an international year previously proclaimed by UNESCO; through a similar procedure, 2002 had been declared the International Year for Cultural Heritage.

12. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include an item entitled "International Year of Physics, 2005" in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session and that it should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

13. *Mr. Borghini and Mr. Roshdy withdrew.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General (A/58/238)

14. **The Chairman** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General requesting the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Appointment of a member of the International Civil Service Commission" under agenda item 17 ("Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments") (A/58/238).

15. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session under item 17 and that it should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.